



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
WESTERN FEDERAL LANDS HIGHWAY DIVISION
PO BOX 409
DARBY, MT 59829

April 11, 2003

CONSTRUCTION STATUS REPORT

West Fork Bitterroot River Road (along Painted Rocks Lake) MT PFH 66-1(3)

Accomplishments through April 11, 2003:

Winter shutdown is rapping up and the construction season is now upon us. There are crews currently working on removing silt fence from the reservoir and repairing damaged fence. If weather conditions would have been better last week, Pumco would have done a little more work on the road. They are currently having difficulty getting equipment together this week to improve the surface condition. They are working with the county to do some work on the current road condition.

As several of you have heard due to present conditions we are working on replacing the existing large culvert at Slate Creek. If we can get everything worked out with US Fish & Wildlife; Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; Corp of Engineers; and USFS we will be starting on the replacement of the culvert in a couple of weeks. The proposed new culvert will be very large to allow for better fish passage. If this work is allowed to start in the next couple of weeks the project completion date will be extended to possibly November of this year. If this work is not allowed to start this spring the project will likely not be completed until sometime in the summer of 2004. We are all hoping and working toward getting this work approved for this spring so we can complete the project this season.

Future activities planned for the project:

Work should start on Tuesday, April 15, 2003, between 7:00 and 8:00 am. The work will be concentrated on roadway maintenance, completing the gabion walls, culverts, excavation and embankment, and the new culvert if the regulatory agencies agree with the proposed changes.

Other news of note:

As a reminder the road open/closure schedule is as follows:

7:00 pm to 8:00 am	Open Road
8:00 am to 10:00 am	Road Closure Permitted
10:00 am to 12:00 pm	Open Road
12:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Road Closure Permitted
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Open Road
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Road Closure Permitted

During Open Road periods you should expect short delays for a pilot car.

Please refer your questions, comments, or concerns to Todd Butikofer at (406) 821-9932 Drive Safe!

